

6. (Thrice Amended) A method for establishing a communication path connecting an originating router to a destination router via other routers along the communication path, comprising:

receiving a session request at a server for establishing a communication path for transmitting information to the destination router, the server adapted to process requests for QoS service and having a location that is independent of the communication path;

sending a message to the originating router in the communication path in response to the session request, the message including a request to reserve resources for transmitting the information; and

monitoring the routers in the communication path to determine whether sufficient resources exist to establish the communication path in accordance with the session request.

11. (Thrice Amended) A network communication system for establishing a transmission path, comprising:

an originating router coupled to a host in a first local area network;

a destination router coupled to another host in a second local area network; and

a server adapted to process requests for QoS service and having a location that is independent of the transmission path, coupled to the originating router, for receiving a session setup request from the host, said server including:

a session setup module for sending a message to the originating router in response to the session setup request, the message including a request to reserve resources for transmitting traffic along the transmission path from the originating router via other routers to the destination router; and

a node server module for monitoring the routers along the transmission path to determine whether sufficient resources exist to establish the transmission path in accordance with the session setup request.

17. (Thrice Amended) A method for establishing a communication path connecting an originating router to a destination router via other routers along the communication path, comprising of:

receiving a session request at a server for establishing a communication path for transmitting information to the destination router, the server adapted to process requests for QoS service and having a location that is independent of the communication path;

sending a resource reservation request to a router in the communication path to reserve resources in accordance with the session request; and

monitoring the routers in the communication path to determine whether resources exist to establish the communication path.

18. (Thrice Amended) A computer program residing on a computer readable medium comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

receive a session request at a server for establishing a communication path from an originating router for transmitting information via other routers to a destination router, the server adapted to process requests for QoS service and having a location that is independent of the communication path;

send a resource reservation request from the server to the originating router to reserve resources in accordance with the session request; and

monitor the routers in the communication path at the server to determine whether resources exist to establish the communication path.

19. (Twice Amended) A central server system comprising a QoS server connected to a series of routers, the server managing QoS matters for a session established along a communication path from an originating router via other routers to a destination router, the central server system adapted to process requests for QoS service and having a location that is independent of the communication path.

24. (Twice Amended) A server system for establishing a communication path connecting an originating router to a destination router via other routers along the communication path, the server system adapted to process requests for QoS service and having a location that is independent of the communication path, comprising:

a server adapted to

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means for receiving a session request for establishing the communication path for transmitting information from the originating router to the destination router;

means for sending a message to the originating router in response to the session request, the message including a request to reserve resources for transmitting the information; and;

means for monitoring the routers in the communication path to determine whether sufficient resources exist to establish the communication path in accordance with the session request. --